

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NAPLES 00534 302356Z

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FM AMCONSUL NAPLES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5969

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T NAPLES 0534

NODIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 0534 VICE 0533)

DEPARTMENT FOR TARNOFF ONLY FROM DICK MOOSE

MOGADISCIO FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: US, SO, MASS, ET, SA

SUBJECT: US-SAUDI TALKS ON THE HORN

1. FOLLOWING IS REPORT TO THE SECRETARY ON MY TALK IN JIDDA LAST EVENING. YOU MAY WISH TO ADAPT TEXT FOR EVENING REPORT:

2. DICK MOOSE MEETS WITH SAUDIS ON HORN:

I MET WITH SAUDI UNDERSECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS ABDAL-RAHMAN AL-MANSOURI MARCH 23 TO DISCUSS MY VISIT TO SOMALIA AND THE GENERAL SITUATION IN THE HORN. I EXPLAINED OUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP SIAD BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND MILITARILY. SIAD HAD PROVIDED ASSURANCES THAT HE WOULD NOT USE FORCE AGAINST HIS NEIGHBORS AND USE OUR ARMS

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ONLY FOR SELF DEFENSE, BUT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN RELATIONS WAS BLOCKED BY HIS INSISTENCE THAT OUR OFFER WAS MEANINGLESS UNLESS WE WERE PREPARED TO SUPPLY HIM WITH TANKS AND AIRCRAFT, ITEMS WHICH IN SOMALIA'S CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DEFINE AS DEFENSIVE.

I ASKED FOR MANSOURI'S ADVICE AND HELP IN URGING SIAD TO ACCEPT WHAT WE COULD PROVIDE. MANSOURI'S RESPONSE WAS THAT FROM SIAD'S

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POOR PRAGMATIC POINT OF VIEW WE WERE "ASKING FOR TOO MUCH AND OFFERING TOO LITTLE" TO PROVIDE THE SUPPORT HE NEEDED TO STAY IN POWER. EVERYTHING WE OFFERED HIM, SIAD COULD GET ELSEWHERE, BUT ONLY THE US OR THE USSR COULD PROVIDE SOPHISTICATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT. WHILE TANKS OR PLANES MIGHT PERHAPS BE PURCHASED ELSEWHERE, SIAD SOUGHT THE POLITICAL COMMITMENT IMPLICIT IN OUR WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE SUCH ITEMS.

MANSOURI REPEATED THAT HIS GOAL WAS THE REDUCTION AND ELIMINATION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE REGION. HE TOLD US THAT WE MIGHT FIND COMFORT IN THE THOUGHT THAT THE SOVIETS HAD NO LONG-TERM FUTURE IN THE AREA, BUT WE WERE FAR REMOVED FROM THE SCENE: THE SAUDIS "FELT THE HEAT NOW" AND COULD NOT AFFORD TO ASSUME THAT THE PROBLEM WOULD BE SOLVED BY THE PASSAGE OF 20 YEARS' TIME. THE SAUDIS HAD SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY ON SOMALIA IN ORDER TO SHAKE

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MENGISTU, BUT THINGS WERE WORSE NOW THAN BEFORE. MANSOURI EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS FLEXIBLE ON TACTICS. HE WAS NOT WEDDED TO SUPPORT FOR THE ERITREANS, NOR TO SIAD, NOR TO A SOMALI-RULED OGADEN, NOR EVEN TO AN ANTI-MENGISTU POSITION IF A TACTICAL CHANGE IN ANY OF THESE POLICIES COULD ADVANCE THE STRATEGIC GOAL OF ELIMINATING SOVIET INFLUENCE.

IN PRINCIPLE MANSOURI AGREED TO URGE SIAD TO BE MORE UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. POSITION, BUT HE BELIEVED IN FACT THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON ARMS. IN ANY CASE, BEFORE THE SAUDIS APPROACHED SIAD OR DID ANYTHING ELSE, MANSOURI WANTED A THOROUGH BILATERAL DISCUSSION OF JOINT TACTICS IN RELATION TO OUR COMMON GOAL IN THE HORN OF REDUCING THE SOVIET POSITION.

THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT HAD SO FAR COMMITTED LARGE RESOURCES IN THE HORN WITH LITTLE RESULT, AND MANSOURI WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT WE AND THEY WOULD BE WORKING TOGETHER ON OUR AGREED PLAN IN THE  
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FUTURE. I AGREED THAT PLANNING TALKS WOULD BE VERY USEFUL AND THAT WE SHOULD UNDERTAKE THEM SHORTLY. WE WOULD BE BACK TO HIM ON THIS.

THE SAUDIS MAY HAVE IN MIND SOME FAIRLY CYNICAL AND FREE-WHEELING TACTICS WHICH WE MAY WISH TO BACK AWAY FROM ONCE WE HEAR THEM. STILL THE PRICE FOR SAUDI ASSISTANCE APPEARS TO BE SOME

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JOINT PLANNING. XGDS-1. COLANTONIO

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## Message Attributes

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